United Nations

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Security Council

Fifty-second Year

Provisional

3805th Meeting

Wednesday, 30 July 1997, 12.25 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Osvald	(Sweden)
Members:	Chile	Mr. Larraín
	China	Mr. Wang Xuexian
	Costa Rica	Mr. Berrocal Soto
	Egypt	Mr. Darwish
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Da Rosa
	Japan	Mr. Konishi
	Kenya	Mr. Mahugu
	Poland	Mr. Skiba
	Portugal	Mr. Monteiro
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Park
	Russian Federation	Mr. Fedotov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Richmond
	United States of America	Mr. Richardson

Agenda

The situation in Liberia

Letter dated 24 July 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1997/581)

97-85882 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 12.25 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Liberia

Letter dated 24 July 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1997/581)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Liberia, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Bull (Liberia) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the letter dated 24 July 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, document S/1997/581.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council.

"The Security Council welcomes the successful holding of presidential and legislative elections in Liberia on 19 July 1997. The Council notes with satisfaction the letter from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council (S/1997/581) and the declaration in the Joint Certification Statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) that the electoral process was free, fair, and credible, and that the outcome of the elections reflects the will of the Liberian voters.

"The Security Council calls upon all parties to abide by the results of the elections and to cooperate in the formation of a new government. The Council also calls upon the new government to protect the democratic system and to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms under the rule of law.

"The Security Council congratulates the people of Liberia on the courage and determination they have shown in proceeding with the elections under difficult circumstances. The Council commends all international personnel, especially those of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) and the Military Observer Group (ECOMOG) of ECOWAS, who contributed to the successful holding of elections.

"The Security Council welcomes the goodwill and cooperation demonstrated by the parties in the electoral process, which provide a strong foundation for the people of Liberia to achieve a durable peace, the re-establishment of constitutional government and a return to the rule of law. The Council expresses the hope that the successful holding of elections will encourage refugees to exercise their right of return and calls upon the new Government to fulfil its obligations under international law regarding returning refugees.

"The Security Council notes that the successful holding of elections represents a critical step towards economic development. The Council urges the international community to continue to provide support and assistance to Liberia through this period of reconstruction.

"The Security Council further notes that the successful conclusion of the electoral process marks the fulfilment of a key element of the UNOMIL mandate.

"The Security Council will remain seized of the matter."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1997/41.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.